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(Signature of person mailing correspondence)

Mark A. Hixon

(Typed name of person mailing correspondence)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	]	
FRANK DZIOBEK, DETLEV CLAES,	]	
JOACHIM JOHANNING, RAINER MAURER	]	Group Art Unit:
and ERICH SZONN	]	
	]	
Filing Under 35 U.S.C. 371 in the DO/EO/US	]	Examiner:
off PCT/EP03/01538 filed 15 February 2003	]	
	]	
For: METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION	]	Attorney Docket 1-16693
OF NITRIC ACID	]	

August 20, 2004

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Sir:

Prior to the first Office Action and before examination, please amend the application  
being filed concurrently herewith under 35 U.S.C. 371 as follows: